

Senate Bill #1: An Act Concerning...
CONNECTICUT JOBS
FOR THE 21st CENTURY
A Plan for Economic Development

“The fundamental problem in Connecticut is that there has been no net job growth for the past 15 years...From a jobs perspective, Connecticut’s economy is treading water.”

– CERC, 2005 CONNECTICUT BENCHMARKS REPORT

I. ENHANCING OUR BUSINESS CLIMATE

- ✱ Eliminate the outdated system of taxing manufacturing equipment as part of an overhaul of our mix of business taxes to better ensure that the taxes affecting businesses are more stable, predictable, and fair
- ✱ Merge our state insurance and banking agencies to better serve the mutual needs these vital sectors and to restore Connecticut’s prominence in the financial services sector
- ✱ Collaborate with leaders from business, labor and our communities to address the rising costs of health care insurance in a way that keeps us competitive

II. STRENGTHENING COMPETITIVENESS

- ✱ Enhance connections among university researchers, the technology sector and the business community
- ✱ Create a Wi-Fi network of wireless internet connectivity in our urban centers to encourage business and job growth
- ✱ Improve the outreach of our economic development agencies and improving our state’s own marketing capabilities
- ✱ Build on the state’s \$100 million commitment to stem cell research to create additional growth in the biotech and pharmaceutical sectors

III. MAKING CONNECTICUT A BETTER PLACE TO LIVE AND WORK

- ✱ Create business and residential incentives to increase renewable energy and to begin to reduce our reliance on expensive foreign fuels through innovative new solutions, including those offered by the state’s burgeoning renewable energy industry.
- ✱ Address gridlock on Connecticut highways and reconnect Hartford to New York City by moving the proposed commuter line between New Haven and Hartford forward, and promoting cleaner transportation practices by “piloting” fuel cell buses, considering permanent sales tax exemptions for alternative fuel vehicles and studying the feasibility of powering commuter rails with fuel cell technology
- ✱ Improve the integration and outreach of our economic development programs to better meet the needs of the business community and to better tap into regional and local economic development expertise